



August 25, 2006

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY AND  
EQUITY RECOGNITION GUIDANCE**

**A. Authority**

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and other Federal Agencies that maintain United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) classified national security information pursuant to Section 3.3 of Executive Order 12958, as amended, are authorized to declassify the information defined in section (B) below, on behalf of USDA.

This authority supersedes any known and unknown declassification authorities published by USDA.

Holders of such information may apply the following declassification marking:

**“Declassified, United States Department of Agriculture Equities, in accordance with Department of Agriculture Authority, dated August 25, 2006.”**

**B. Agriculture Information Subject to Automatic Declassification**

USDA classified national security information subject to automatic declassification defined in Section 3.3 of E.O. 12958, as amended, generated by the Department of Agriculture.

All USDA national classified security information 25 years and older is automatically declassified without exception.

**C. Referrals**

Since all USDA equities are being declassified that are more than 25 years old, the volume of referrals should be minimal. In those instances, where an agency determines that a referral is necessary, the following procedures apply:

- (1) Referrals processed through the NARA, Interagency Referral Center; standard referral processes and procedures should be followed.
- (2) Referrals not processed through the Interagency Referral Center may be sent to:

Attention:

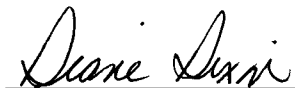
United States Department of Agriculture  
Office of Procurement and Property Management  
Personnel and Document Security Division  
South Building S-310, Stop 9305  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.  
Washington, DC 20250-9305

**D. Assistance**

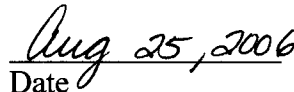
Department of Agriculture declassification reviewers are available to assist in the application of these guidelines. Any questionable cases resulting from these instructions should be referred for resolution to the above address or by telephone (202) 720-7373 or unclassified facsimile at (202) 720-7708.

**E. Review of Authority**

The Department of Agriculture will review this authority and update it as necessary.



Diane Dixon  
Declassification Authority  
USDA

  
Date